A chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management has recently been opened at Guwahati.

A full-fledged Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology has been set up at Shillong.

A video film on tourist attractions for North East has been produced by Ministry of Tourism in order to give wide publicity to the region. This is being screened by Air India in their flights.

North Eastern States are given free booth in the World's largest tourism fair ITB Berlin.

Financial Assistance for promotion of Fairs and Festivals is also being provided to North Eastern States every year on continuing basis.

North Eastern States are given a special focus in the Marketing Conference of Overseas Offices of the Ministry and all the overseas offices *arc* giving due publicity to the North East States for the promotion of tourism in the region.

(b) and (c) During the first 3 years of the Ninth Plan i.e. 1997-2000, the Department *of Tourism* has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 4874.33 lakhs for 230 *projects* in consultation with State Governments in North Eastern region including Sikkim.

Profits from tourism sector

297. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will *the Minister of* TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action plan finalised and formulated by the Government for domestic an external tourism in the NER States particularly in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of profit from the tourism sector during the last three years, State-wise/year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for development of tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (A) (I) Allocation of 10% of Plan Funds for promotion and development of tourism in the North Eastern States including Arunachal Pradesh.

(II) Up-grading the GOITO at Guwahati to the level of Regional Director for better co-ordination for the North Eastern States.

(III) Inviting foreign media and Travel Agents/Tour Operators on fam trips to the North East.

(IV) Additional Centra! Financial Assistance for use of Information Technology in the field of tourism.

(b) Information on profits from tourism are not available as the profits accure to private sector enterprises.

(c) Central Financial Assistance is provided to the State Tourism in North East and other States for tourism infrastructure, for human resource development and promotion through fairs and festivals.

Prevention of Erosion in Diara Region, Bihar

† 298. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

whether Government intend to take permanent measures for preventing the erosion taking place every year at Diara region of the Ganga in the State of Bihar;

if so, the kind of safety measure proposed to be taken for prevention of erosion in Diara region; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Water Conservation Programme of Andhra Pradesh

299. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister in a recent visit to Andhra Pradesh was highly appreciative of the water conservation programme in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

† Origional notice of the question was received in Hindi.